

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending May 23, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 23, 2004**. Wet conditions at the beginning of the week prevented farmers from continuing fieldwork until the end of the week. The weekend brought sunny days and warmer temperatures, allowing for continued planting and harvesting. Cattle have benefitted from increased grazing due to recent rains. Blueberry harvesting has begun and crop progress is looking good. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 29 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Emerged	99	97	99	99	1	3	24	57	15
Cotton	Planted	94	87	85	92	2	5	26	60	7
	Emerged	87	76	76	78					
Rice	Planted	98	95	93	95	0	0	25	62	13
	Emerged	95	91	85	84					
Sorghum	Planted	98	97	94	94	0	0	27	67	6
	Emerged	97	93	92	88					
Soybeans	Planted	95	93	81	82	0	4	22	62	12
	Emerged	91	87	74	69					
	Blooming	6	--	1	1					
Wheat	Mature	42	7	25	35	0	7	39	42	12
Hay (Cool Season) (Warm Season)	Harvested	69	58	79	81	0	5	20	61	14
		10	7	12	11					
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	7	3	12	13	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	88	86	98	92	0	4	16	74	6
Blueberries						0	0	7	85	8
Cattle						2	4	16	60	18
Pasture						0	6	19	63	12

### County Agent Comments

"Growers had a very good week of fieldwork. Some cotton is being sprayed for insects. Rice is being flooded. Most crops are planted."

— Don Respress, Bolivar

"Most of all row crops are in fairly good condition. It continues to be too wet to continue soybean planting. Hopefully with warm temperatures and sunshine in the forecast this week, we can complete soybean and other field chores."

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

"Most fields are drying out quickly. Rains brought a big flush of weeds that will need spraying this week. Sweetpotato planting will kick into high gear after a few more days of sunshine and wind."

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

"Flood waters along Bayou Pierre in Claiborne County affected over 1,000 acres of cotton and corn. Crop survival has yet to be determined. Parts of the county received over 14 inches of rain in a few days."

— Cliff Covington, Claiborne

“Nice, slow, soaking rain showers Monday through Wednesday continued to replenish soil moisture. All forage and field crops look better now than they have all spring.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Livestock producers are having a good year thus far. Temperatures are reaching norms for optimal forage production. Frequent rains are very beneficial as long as producers can get fertilizer spread between rains. Hay production should be plentiful early on.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“Fields are drying out and producers are back in their fields trying to clean them up and finish planting. We need a good week to catch up.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We are finally getting some much needed dry weather. We are at least two weeks behind most counties in the mid-Delta. If the current weather forecast holds up, we should finish planting most of the cotton, soybeans, and rice this week.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“The weather has been favorable for planting corn, soybeans and cotton. Producers are making up for lost time due to rain the last couple of weeks.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We ended up with 5-9 inches of rain throughout the county. Since the sun came out, everything has perked up. We are seeing some wilt in saturated soils, but hopefully this will clear up as the soil dries out.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Rain delayed field operations through the week. Crops are growing well.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“This was an outstanding week for hay producers harvesting cool-season forage crops. All of the cotton is planted and most of the soybeans are in the ground. This has been a very good spring so far.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“Wet soils kept most producers out of the fields until Wednesday and Thursday. Once the fields were dry enough, most all producers went to work controlling weeds in their fields. Some cotton replanting took place on limited acreage.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“With accumulations of up to 9 inches of rain in the last two weeks, crops look amazingly good. Some low-lying fields will have to be replanted. This crop has great potential if we don't get poor weather conditions later in the season.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Most of the area was really soaked by recent heavy rains. Problems associated with flooding and saturated soil conditions have set back all crops. Some replanting will likely be required.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Soaked is what you call the field condition at this time. Replanting will be required for some crops.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Warmer and drier conditions are bringing an end to the ryegrasses. Some of the ryegrass has been cut for hay and some that was drilled into permanent sod has been grazed down to allow permanent pasture grasses to start growing. There seems to be a fly build-up starting on the livestock. Quite a bit of pasture spraying has been accomplished this past week.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Soybean planting will soon be complete with most of the crop already emerged. Cotton and corn are growing well. Pastures are improving with three or more inches of rainfall received across the county during the past week.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Three days of rain have been great. Pastures and gardens needed the relief from the spring drought. Corn and other crops responded to this much needed rain.”

— Amanda Woods, Marion

“Cotton and peanut planting have slowed due to wet conditions in fields. Ryegrass hay harvest has finished and what is left is too mature to cut. Cattle are enjoying the good grazing that has been produced by frequent rainfall. Some timber harvest has just resumed due to wet soils in the woods. Yards and gardens are doing well.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Weather conditions of the cool and dry period of early spring followed by heavy rains have generated more fungi and insect pressure within the young hardwood forest.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Harvesting of winter forages for hay should be completed by the end of this week. High humidity and 90 degree days increased mortality of 6-8 week old birds on poultry farms. Producers are moving 500 pound and above calves to market to cash in on higher than normal prices! Tomato spotted wilt is worse in commercial fields than last several years!”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Most fields remained too wet to work last week. Some fieldwork resumed near the end of the week. As soon as weather permits, the remainder of the beans and cotton will be planted. Some late summer grazing was planted last week on drier soils.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Forages are growing at optimal rates with all the rain over the past several weeks and warm sunny days of this week. Cattle, crops, and vegetables are responding well.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Farmers were pleased to see the end to the rain on Wednesday. This allowed them to get back in the fields to control weeds which had begun to grow rapidly during this time. Watermelon producers are now relieved to see that watermelons have benefitted from the moisture and should produce larger melons. Vegetable producers are having problems with diseases and weeds as a result of the rain.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“First blueberries harvested this week! Growers are preparing to go wide open within the next 10 days. Wet field conditions have pretty much stopped all other farm activities. Cool-season hay harvest should be completed within the next 10 days of sunny weather. Watermelons, corn, summer forage, and livestock are doing well.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from May 17, 2004 to May 23, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	88	64	75	71	+4	2.68E	+1.42	2	6.09E				
Cleveland				73		0.81	-0.31	3	6.16				
Tunica				72		0.39	-0.88	2	4.96				0.27
Extreme/Average	88	64	75	72	+3	1.29	+0.07	2	5.56				0.27
2. North-Central													
HickoryFlat	88	61	74	69	+5	0.50	-0.76	1	5.98				
Calhoun City	86	62	74	70	+4	0.07	-1.12	2	7.54				
Independence	86	58	74	69	+5	0.27	-0.99	1	3.57				
Oxford	88	64	76	70	+6	0.21	-1.08	2	7.44				
Extreme/Average	88	58	75	70	+5	0.26	-1.00	2	6.13				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	87	65	75	69	+6	0.06	-1.38	2	4.18				
Iuka	86	59	72	67	+5	0.17	-1.24	1	3.82				
Ripley	87	62	74	69	+5	0.94	-0.26	2	5.59				
Tupelo	89	66	77			0.31		1	3.82				
Verona				71		0.48	-0.57	1	4.27				0.26
Extreme/Average	89	59	75	70	+5	0.37	-0.96	2	4.35				
4. LowerDelta													
Moorhead	87	66	77	73	+4	0.22	-0.95	2	4.19				
RollingFork	91	64	77	73	+4	2.34	+1.16	3	5.42	74	68	70	
Stoneville				74		0.27	-0.90	2	5.81				0.18
YazooCity	88	66	76	73	+3	1.58	+0.34	3	9.57				
Extreme/Average	91	64	77	74	+3	1.10	-0.15	3	6.25	74	68	70	0.18
5. Central													
Canton	88	64	75	73	+2	0.68	-0.59	3	7.38				
Carthage	88	63	74	72	+2	0.37	-0.82	2	3.88				
Lexington	87	62	74	71	+3	0.44	-0.73	3	8.68				
Eupora				70		0.33E	-0.84	3	5.80E				
Extreme/Average	88	62	74	72	+2	0.46	-0.69	3	6.44				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	90	65	77	70	+7	0.30	-0.92	2	3.79				0.25
Houston	87	60	74	70	+4	0.16	-1.10	2	5.01				
Louisville				70		0.07	-1.07	1	4.78				
StateUniversity				71		1.05	-0.02	3	4.13	82	72	77	0.21
Extreme/Average	90	60	75	72	+3	0.40	-0.73	2	4.43	82	72	77	0.23
7. Southwest													
CrystalSprings	88	64	76	73	+3	1.32	+0.26	3	10.52	89	73	80	
Natchez	86	63	75	74	+1	0.49	-0.72	4	6.28				
Oakley	89	62	76	73	+3	2.04	+0.99	3	14.11	87	71	79	
Vicksburg	86	65	76			2.22		3	11.37				
Extreme/Average	89	62	76	73	+3	1.52	+0.33	3	10.57	89	71	80	
8. South-Central													
Collins				72		0.74	-0.57	2	6.11				
Columbia	88	66	77	74	+3	1.19	-0.07	3	9.71				
Tylertown	89	64	75	74	+1	0.83	-0.44	3	12.12				
Extreme/Average	89	64	76	73	+3	0.92	-0.34	3	9.31				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	90	62	75			1.47		2	10.15				
Hattiesburg	87	63	75	74	+1	1.28	+0.10	3	8.91				
Laurel	88	64	76	73	+3	0.64	-0.54	2	8.10				
Newton				71		0.11	-0.77	1	4.30				0.19
Extreme/Average	90	62	75	73	+2	0.88	-0.21	2	7.87				0.19
10.Coastal													
BayStLouis	90	62	76	75	+1	0.17	-1.09	2	12.05				
Gulfport	84	66	76	76	0	0.16	-1.14	1	11.78				
Pascagoula				73		0.23	-1.17	1	4.11				
Poplarville	89	64	76	75	+1	0.99	-0.27	2	14.07	93	69	77	0.23
Waveland	85	66	76	75	+1	0.44	-0.75	3	11.29				
Extreme/Average	90	62	76	75	+1	0.40	-0.93	2	10.66	93	69	77	0.23
State	91	58	75	72	+3	0.77	-0.43	2	7.26	93	68	76	0.24

DFN = Departure from Normal.